Gambetta and the passion of Clemenceau are lacking, we sense throughout the patriotic emotion of one whom, even his many enemies admit to have been a great Frenchman.

The first two volumes, dealing with his memorable year as Premier and Foreign Secretary, are the most interesting and valuable of all. The third and fourth, describing the first eighteen months of his Presidency, are less authoritative, for he explains again and again that French policy was made by the Cabinets, not by himself. The charge brought against him, not only:by German foes but by some of his own countrymen, that he worked for war is angrily denied. To the statements in Iswolsky's despatches that he encouraged Russia to rash adventures in the Balkans, he replies that the Ambassador systetnatically misreported him, and that he never went ah inch beyond the formal obligations of the Dual Alliance.

In 1930 he took up the grave charge of being a war-monger in a small volume entitled *Les TLesponsabilites de la Guerre*', which replied to fourteen searching questions by a young critic for whom he felt respect. The sk volumes of the Memoirs which cover the years of the war abandon the narrative method in favour of extracts from his diary, some of which, particularly the snapshots of celebrities, are vivid^ enough though many others are not worth printing. The work would have gained in impressiveness if it had been shorter and less self-righteous.

From Clemenceau down to the meanest scribbler he breaks a lance with all his critics and foes) It is not a loveable personality.

In his declining years Asquith tra'ced the outlines of his career and rebutted the charge that he had failed to prepare for the ordeal of war. A first-class classical scholar and a lover of good literature, he could write well enough when he chose; but *The Genesis of the War,* the first and most important of his

books, *Fifty Years of Parliament,* and *Memories and Inflections,*
are the work of a tired man and add nothing to the reputation
of our greatest Parliamentarian since Gladstone. Haldane's
narrative presented in *Before the War* and. in his posthumous
Autobiography', though on a smaller scale and covering a more
limited field, is of high value as a contribution to the tragic
history of Anglo-German relations. Morley's *'Rjecollectton*,*
which stop short before the war $_{t}$ of 1914, are a delight, and the
letters to Lord Minto written from the India Office are the
gem of the book. The *Memorandum on T&sigyation,* published
after his death, traces the agonising experiences and disagree-